

From: David R. Plas
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/17/02 1:26pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in reference to the U.S. government's anti-trust action against Microsoft. I strongly support the position of the Dept. of Justice that Microsoft exerts monopoly power in the computer software marketplace. I also agree that splitting up Microsoft is not the proper mechanism for dissolving the monopoly. However, the goal of the government must be to find a way to prevent Microsoft from leveraging its control over the Windows OS into domination of other areas of the software market. To this end, I strongly support forcing Microsoft to publish all API's of any current OS on the market, and 3 months in advance of any future release of the Windows OS.

Publication of the Windows APIs would prevent Microsoft from possessing an unlawful advantage in the fabrication of software that runs within the Windows OS. In effect, Microsoft would be forced to behave as two separate companies: one with rights to modify the OS as it pleases, and another that must work with the published tools provided by the OS to compete with other companies in the development of software. Assuming Microsoft competed well in the marketplace, this remedy would benefit the company by insulating it from further lawsuits concerning anti-trust matters. It would also have obvious benefits for the public and competing companies.

Whatever remedy you do pursue, please do not try the previously failed tactic of behavior modification combined with fines. These don't work for any aggressive company, and have already failed in the Microsoft matter. Take a decisive step to end this harmful monopoly.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on these issues.

Yours,

Dave Plas